



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
*Olympia, Washington 98504-5000*

February 13, 2008

Dear Children's Administration Service Stakeholders & Community Partners:

Subject: Revised Braam Implementation Plan Proposal

Because of your long-time involvement with the Children's Administration and children's issues, I'm writing to let you know that yesterday we formally asked the Braam Panel to consider amending the terms of the implementation plan. If you are interested in reading what we proposed, please link to the Revised Braam Implementation Plan Proposal at <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/word/ca/BraamProposaFINAL.doc>.

For some time now we've been saying that the implementation plan doesn't set priorities and places too much emphasis on accomplishing specific tasks rather than focusing on what will protect and meet the needs of a child in foster care. To accomplish that goal, the Children's Administration needs to be able to focus on a smaller set of priorities that, when achieved, will accomplish the ultimate goal of the settlement agreement – meeting the needs of children in foster care.

Children's Administration is not asking to be released from the settlement agreement. It was negotiated and agreed to by all the parties to the Braam lawsuit and we remain committed to the goals of this agreement. In the past two years we've made considerable strides toward reaching those goals, and we've learned what works and doesn't work. Our proposal reflects what we've learned, and we have asked Braam Panel members and plaintiffs' counsel to review it with an open mind.

If, after reading our proposal, you still have questions, please contact my office at (360) 902-7820 and we can provide more detail about why we are asking for these revisions and the changes we are proposing.

Thank you again for your continued interest in children's issues.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Stephani  
Assistant Secretary  
Children's Administration